

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USLOSACLANT

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0770

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: PERMREPS' LUNCH, FEB 11

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT LUNCHEON ON FEB 11, HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR BRUCE, SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS DISCUSSED LUNS' RECENT TRIP TO PARIS, BRITISH FONSEC CALLAGHAN'S RECENT VISIT TO LISBON, GENSEC BREZHNEV'S HEALTH, LAW OF THE SEA, DATES FOR SPRING NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, AND FEB 20 NAC ON EAST-WEST ISSUES AND SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS. DISCUSSION ON THESE LAST TWO TOPICS REPORTED SEP-CONFIDENTIAL

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TELS. END SUMMARY.

1. LUNS' RECENT TRIP TO PARIS -- SYG LUNS REPORTED IN SOME DETAIL ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO PARIS, CHARACTERIZING THE PREVAILING

ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT THE VISIT AS "CORDIAL AND EXCELLENT."
HE SAID HE MADE A VIP CALL AT THE ELYSEE WHERE A GUARD OF HONOR
WAS IN ATTENDANCE AND HE SPENT 50 MINUTES WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD.
LUNS SAID GISCARD WAS OPEN AND FRIENDLY AND TALKED FREELY ABOUT
FRANCE'S POSITION IN THE ALLIANCE AND ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST.
REGARDING THE LATTER, THE FRENCH PRESIDENT HAD LITTLE TO SUG-
GEST. CONCERNING FRANCE'S POSITION IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AL-
LIANCE, LUNS SAID GISCARD WAS DISCURSIVE, AND HE DISPLAYED EVERY
INCLINATION FOR FRANCE TO CONTINUE AND IMPROVE AN AMIABLE RELA-
TIONSHIP WITH NATO.

2. THE SYG REPORTED HE THEN SAW DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES,
WHOM HE FOUND VERY FRIENDLY, BUT AS MR. BOURGES HAD BEEN IN OFFICE
ONLY A SHORT TIME NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL CAME FROM THIS CONFERENCE.
LUNS NEXT HAD A LONG SESSION WITH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES WHO
SPOKE WARMLY OF THE GROWING VALUE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE
AND THE ALLIANCE.

3. CONTINUING HIS REPORT, LUNS SAID GENERAL MORIN, CHIEF OF
STAFF, SPOKE FRANKLY ABOUT HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION.
THE GENERAL WAS IMPRESSED BY THE "RUTHLESSNESS" OF MILITARY
TRAINING THERE. HE SAID THE SOVIETS KEEP THEIR OLD MILIARY
MATERIEL IN SPITE OF CONSTANT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ARMAMENTS.
THEY USE LIVE AMMUNITION FOR TRAINING. MORIN HAD THE IMPRESSION
THE RUSSIANS WERE SOMEWHAT BEHIND NATO ON THE QUALITY OF ELEC-
TRONIC EQUIPMENT, BUT HAD A WIDE AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS NET.

4. LUNS SAID SAUVAGNARGUES GAVE A DINNER FOR HIM AT THE QUAI
D'ORSAY ATTENDED BY 60 OR 70 FRENCH PRESENT AND PAST FUNCTION-
ARIES, INCLUDING COUVE DE MURVILLE. THE FOLLOWING DAY LUNS
WENT TO VISIT DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AT TAVERNY WHICH HE FOUND
MOST IMPRESSIVE. QUITE ASIDE FROM ITS CONNECTIONS WITH NADGE
LUNS SAID THE FRENCH CAN SURVEY FROM TAVERNY ALMOST ANYTHING
WHICH GOES ON IN EUROPE. THE SYG CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE GAINED
THE IMPRESSION IN HIS DISCUSSIONS THERE THAT THE FRENCH GOVERN-
MENT MAY EXTEND ITS COOPERATION IN THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS
FIELDS.

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5. BRITISH FONSEC CALLAGHAN'S RECENT VISIT TO LISBON --
DE FREITAS CRUZ (PORTUGAL) REPORTED TO HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE
VISIT OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TO LISBON WHILE SHORT
WAS SUCCESSFUL. THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE
COMMUNIQUE IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT EXPRESSLY RELATED
PORTUGAL'S FIDELITY TO THE ALLIANCE. DE FREITAS CRUZ ALSO SPOKE
OF THE "MISREPRESENTATION" ABOUT THE USSR HAVING ASKED FOR SOVIET
FISHING FLEET ACCESS TO PORTUGUESE PORTS. DE FREITAS CRUZ SAID
NO SUCH REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE; THE CONFUSION ON THIS POINT, HE
THOUGHT, MAY HAVE ARISEN FROM THE SOVIET MINISTER OF FISHING
HAVING CANCELLED A PROPOSED VISIT TO PORTUGAL.

6. GENSEC BREZHNEV'S HEALTH -- AMBASSADOR ERALP (TURKEY) SAID HE

HAD BEEN INFORMED BY A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT BREZHNEV IS SUFFERING FROM CANCER OF THE JAW. AMBASSADOR SVART (DENMARK) REMARKED THAT HIS LATEST INFORMATION WAS THAT BREZHNEV WAS SUFFERING FROM LUNG CANCER (SEE USNATO 739 NOTAL FOR MORE COMPLETE REPORT ON TURKISH AND DANISH INFORMATION ABOUT BREZHNEV'S POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH).

7. LAW OF THE SEA -- AMBASSADOR DE ROSE (FRANCE) TALKED ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY SOMETIME OF NATO CONSIDERING WHAT PART IT SHOULD PLAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS. NO FURTHER INTERCHANGE TOOK PLACE ON THIS FRENCH OBSERVATION. CONVERSATION WAS SIDETRACKED BY REMINISCENCES ABOUT THE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE. BRUCE

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